



January 10, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
The Justice Department
950 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I have always had a great deal of respect for those who have undertaken the heavy burdens of serving in public office, particularly at the federal level. Naturally, there are times when those so situated in government make decisions with which I simply do not agree. Our government's decision to bring this shortsighted lawsuit against Microsoft was one of those times.

It is true that the larger and more successful that Microsoft got, the less responsive and consumer-oriented they became. While this attitude may have been regrettable, it certainly did not warrant action -- especially by our government. The Justice Department never let market forces get even half a chance to act.

There seems to be a happy ending here. The recently negotiated settlement is fair and reasonable. It is my hope that it will survive the public comment part of the lawsuit, and that no further federal action will be brought against Microsoft. I think that they have learned their lesson. After all, the settlement already forces Microsoft to be more accountable to the government and the competition by virtue of a new "Technical Committee" designed to make sure that Microsoft maintains its licensing agreements with hardware makers, and, more importantly, its design obligations. These obligations open up Windows codes for the competition so that competitors' products will run faster and more efficiently on the Windows platform.

Thank you for your continuing defense of the settlement.

Sincerely,

Kevin Landgrave
Chairman/Chief Executive Officer
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